

Portugal to use rebel Renamo in Moz Army

ROME. — Portugal has been asked to help train a new Mozambican army, which will integrate veteran rebels from the 15-year-old civil war.

The request was made a day after Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano and rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama signed an agreement pledging to sign a cease-fire by October 1.

The agreement crowned two years of talks in Rome involving the Right-wing Renamo rebels and the former Marxist Maputo Government.

Portuguese diplo-

matic observers to the talks met on Saturday both with Mr Chissano and Mr Dhlakama.

Lisbon, was expected to accept the task. What to do about the rebels after the war ends has been a sticky issue in the talks, which have been mediated by Italy, a Rome-based Catholic charity and the Mozambique Catholic church.

Renamo claims to have 23 000 fighters while the government boasts an army of 50 000, although mediators believe both sides have far fewer troops.

Under the proposed agreement, the national

army would number 25 000 troops, half of them coming from the Renamo ranks.

The Portuguese took on a similar task in Angola following the end of civil strife in that former African colony of Lisbon.

Many of the military details will be worked on in the next few days when negotiators from both sides continue to meet in Rome after the expected departure of Mr Chissano and Mr Dhlakama.

The composition of the national police was also expected to be discussed. Sapa-AP.

Citizen 10 AUG 1992